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(54) Instrument for securing a suture needle.

(57) A needle driver instrument suitable for use with a trocar sheath (102) in operative endoscopic surgical procedures such as laparoscopic and pelviscopic procedures is disclosed for driving a curved suture needle (106). The needle driver instrument comprises an elongated cylindrical tube member (101) having a channel (105) formed about the distal end thereof for receiving either a curved or a straight suture needle. The channel is transversely formed through the elongated member and has a plurality of surfaces (204-207) to orient and fix the suture needle in a predetermined orientation. A wedge (110) operable across the channel and through the passage-

way of the elongated member wedges the needle between at least two of the contact surfaces of the channel to fixedly position the suture needle in the desired orientation. At the proximal end of the device is a handle (108) with a generally U-shaped spring (109) extending therefrom for manual operation of the wedge. A rod extending from the wedge through the elongated member of the instrument is connected to the spring for actuation and operation of the wedge. The device is comprised of component parts which are easily disassembled for cleaning and sterilization.

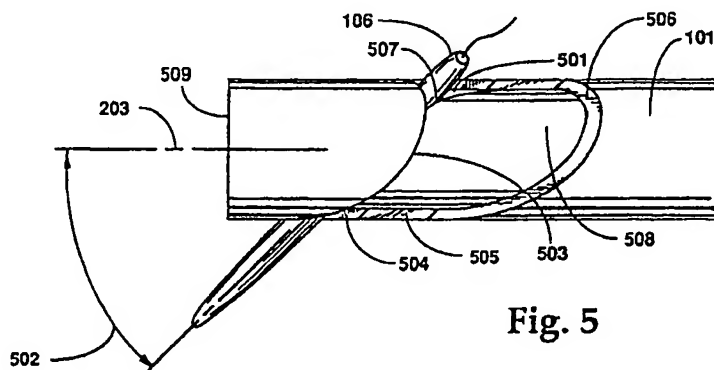
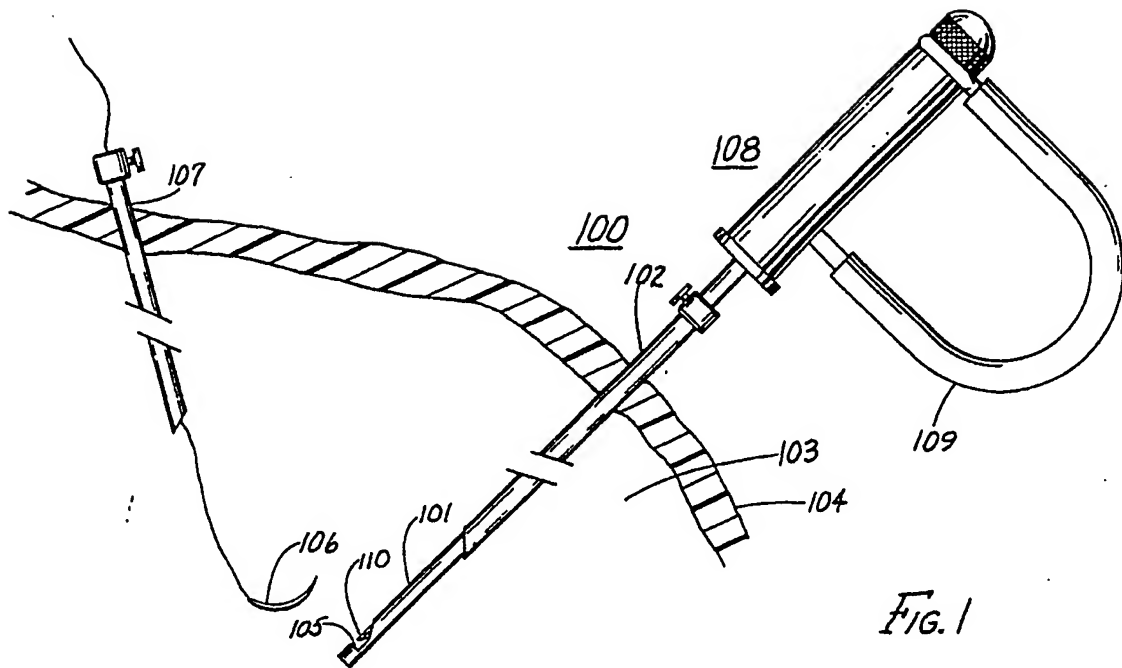


Fig. 5

EP 0 437 063 A3





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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number

EP 90 31 3758

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int. Cl.5)
A	US-A-2 348 218 (KARLE et al.) * claim 1; figures 2,3 *	1,3,12	A 61 B 17/04
A	US-A-2 370 545 (KARLE) * claims 1-3; figures 1,3 *	1,3,12	
A	US-A-4 597 390 (MULHOLLAN et al.) * claim 1; figures 3-6 *	1,12	
A	US-A-2 737 954 (KNAPP) * claim 1; figures 1-7 *	1,12	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int. Cl.5)
			A 61 B
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search BERLIN		Date of completion of the search 23-05-1991	Examiner PAPA E.R.
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document			